

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

**Guide to Collection**

**Swineford, A. P. (Alfred P.), 1834-1909**

**Governor A. P. Swineford Papers, 1869-1916**

**MS 232**

3 boxes  
2 linear ft.

Processed By: Ken Nail, Jr.  
October 2007

**ACQUISITION:** The Swineford papers were donated to the Alaska Historical Collections by Allen Shattuck & Sally Slater and Roger & Terry Shattuck. Accession # 2007-027.

**ACCESS:** The collection is unrestricted.

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**PROCESSING:** The papers are in fair-good condition. Some fragile documents were housed in Mylar for better preservation.

**Biographical Note**

Alfred P. Swineford was born at Ashland, Wisconsin, September 14, 1834. In 1871 he was elected to the lower house of the Michigan Legislature. He served two terms as mayor of Marquette and afterwards was elected to several terms as alderman and supervisor. In 1885 he was appointed by President Cleveland to be Governor of the District of Alaska and held that office until 1889.

Trained at an early age in the printing trade, Swineford published and edited newspapers in Michigan and Alaska, including the Daily Miner, the Ketchikan Miner, the Ketchikan Mining Journal, the Mining Journal. In 1898 wrote the book, *Alaska, Its History, Climate and Natural Resources*.

In 1893 Swineford was appointed Inspector of Surveyors General and District Land Office, charged with opening Oklahoma's Cherokee Strip for settlement.

He died in Juneau on October 26, 1909, and is buried there in the Evergreen Cemetery

### Scope and Contents Note

Correspondence and documents of Governor A. P. Swineford, 1869-1916. Includes appointment by President Grover Cleveland of A. P. Swineford as Governor Alaska; June 17, 1886.

### Subjects

Swineford, A. P. (Alfred P.), 1834-1909.

Wickersham, James, 1857-1939

Newspapers

### Inventory

#### Box 1

1. Blue Felt Case with latch – set of cards bearing likeness of governor of each state and noting the number of electoral votes for each state. “To Gov A P Swineford with Compliments of Lum Smith, Philadelphia; on 9/1/88.”
2. Letter Book – top cover missing; recommend disbanding to allow folded letters to be read without damage.

Notes: July 1885 to Nov 1885

Autographic letters, some loose at rear of book.

Letters to Gov. A P Swineford

One from the New York Life Insurance Co. assures him that his policy covers him, even in Alaska.

Nov. 3, 1885, letter to Gov. Swineford from Secretary of the Interior L. Q. C.

Lamar stating that Congressional action would be necessary to extend U S land laws (other than on the subject of mines and mining) to the territory of Alaska.

3. Bound letter book of correspondence from Gov. Swineford – dates largely illegible.

Issue of The Daily Mining Journal for Oct. 27, 1909, on the occasion of Swineford's death. Journal published in Marquette, Michigan. (Paper is folded and should be opened and flattened to preserve it.) One typed letter is dated 1887.

**Box 2**

**Notable:** Handwritten speech on the 98<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence; unsigned; Correspondence regarding abuse of Chinese laborers at a mine on Douglas Island, Aug. 1886; Autographic correspondence from Secretary of the Interior L. Q. C. Lamar in 1885; Will of A. P. Swineford.

**Folder 1      Printed Matter**

Congressional Record, June 30, 1869; pp. 385-406 and 485-493.

Congressional Record, March 21, 1885, pp. 75-80.

"A Memorial on Needed Legislation by Sixty Thousand Americans in Alaska," Nov. 20, 1905.

"Mr. Wickersham's Juneau and Douglas Speeches Compared with Official Records,"  
Oct. 11, 1916

**Folder 2      Undated and Early Documents**

Fourth of July Speech (ca 1874); handwritten and unsigned

Reception Invitation by Gov. & Mrs. Swineford in honor of Lt. Cmdr. W. H. Emory and officers of the U S S Thetis. Oct. 11 (no year). Undated draft of invitation.

Invitation to Gov. & Mrs. Swineford for breakfast aboard the Thetis, Saturday (no other date)

Railroad Pass (Chicago to Detroit) for Gov. A. P. Swineford, Compensation

Portrait (printed) of Lt. Cmdr. William H. Emory

Cards: "The Castle," Sitka, Alaska. October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1888.

Senate Gallery Reservation: Mrs. Swineford & Friends, the session; Feb. 25, 1887.

Invitation: American Academy of Music, Broad & Locust Streets. Reception to the President of the United States, Friday evening September 16, 1887. Doors open at eight o'clock @ Grand March at nine o'clock. Admit Gentleman & Lady.

Handwritten copy of resolution endorsing the choice by "the Common Council of Sitka, that General George P. Hine," to "represent them and their interests at Washington...." Undated and bearing the notation that the resolution passed.

Letter to Mayor and City Council of Sitka, Alaska, from C. R. Montague; Dec. 30, 1869.

Published Copy: "Treaty Concerning the Cession of the Russian Possessions in North America by His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias to the United States of America. Concluded

March 30, 1867; Ratified by the United States May 28, 1867; Exchanged June 20, 1867; Proclaimed by the United States June 20, 1867."

Copy: Headquarters Military District of the Pacific and Department of California, San Francisco, CA, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1877; General Orders No. 1....announces the withdrawal of troops in certain posts in the Territory of Alaska "upon the arrival of the revenue cutter now fitting and under the control of the Treasury Department, and which is expected to arrive in Alaskan waters about the 15<sup>th</sup> of May....."

**Copy 2527DC 1877; Headquarters Dept. of the Columbia; May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1877.** "To the Commanding Officer, Sitka, Alaska, Sir: By direction of the Department Commander I have respectfully to enclose for your information official copy of General Order No. 1 current series from Headquarters April 23<sup>rd</sup> ordering the early withdrawal of troops from Sitka...."

**Copy 2527<sup>3</sup> DC 1877.** "Fort Canby, Washington Territory, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1877; To the Asst. Adjt. General, Department of the Columbia, Portland, Oregon....."

"Statement showing articles of Clothing & Equipage ordered to be issued under the directions of the Secretary of War of April 12, 188-, also cost of the articles....." Typescript.

**Folder 3      Formal Documents & Correspondence****1884-1889**

Deposition and accounting of the receipts and expenditure of monies on account of the Michigan State exhibit at the New Orleans Exposition in 1884-1885.

Nomination of A. P. Swineford to be Commissioner of Mineral Statistics for the State of Michigan for two years from Jan. 1, 1883, by Governor Josiah W. Begole, Michigan.

Letter of Commission designating A. P. Swineford as Governor of the District of Alaska. Appointment by President Grover Cleveland; signed by Secretary of the Interior L. Q. C. Lamar, May 11, 1885.

Issuance of clothing and equipage to the Governor of the Territory of Alaska by S. B. ---, Quartermaster General, War Dept., USA., April 16, 1888. [See immediately below.]

Receipt for Clothing and equipage from Gov. Swineford; signed by J. W. Patterson, Auditor, Treasury Dept., Jan. 7, 1890.

Officers of Alaska (list); Dept. of Interior, May 12, 1885.

Letter to L. Q. C. Lamar, Secy of Interior from \_\_\_\_, Dept. of State, transmitting enclosures about the cession of Alaska.

Ticket to Complimentary Banquet given by the Citizens of Marquette (Michigan) to Gov. A. P. Swineford, Aug. 1, 1885.

Letter to Gov. A. P. Swineford from Wm. Ellis, dated Dec. 4, 1885.

Letter to Alfred P. Swineford from L. Q. C. Lamar, Secy of Interior, dated June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1886, transmitting commission as Governor of the District of Alaska.

Proclamation, Gov. A. P. Swineford, Aug - , 1886; "lawlessness" against Chinese in Alaska.

Letter to Gov. A. P. Swineford from Lt. Comdr H. E. Nichols, U.S.S. Pinta, Aug. 7, 1886; lawlessness at Juneau

Letter to Gov. A. P. Swineford from Dep. U S Marshal John McKenna (Douglas Island, Alaska), Aug. 6, 1886; lawlessness against Chinese workers

Letter to Lt. Cmdr H. E. Nichols, U S S Pinta from Gov. A. P. Swineford, Aug. 9, 1886; lawlessness against "Chinamen"

Letter to (Lt. Cmdr H. E. Nichols), U S S Pinta from Gov. A. P. Swineford, Aug. 10, 1886; "2<sup>nd</sup> letter to Gov. — declines to go after and bring back the Chinese until after further consultation."

Letter to Lt. Cmdr H. E. Nichols, U S S Pinta from Gov. A. P. Swineford, Aug. 11, 1886; "reporting request (?) that he go after and bring back Chinese and also \_\_\_ remain at Juneau for the protection of lives and property of people."

Letter to Gov. A. P. Swineford from Lt. Cmdr Nichols at Juneau, AK, Aug. 11, 1886; "2<sup>nd</sup> and final letter of Capt. Nichols declining to go after and bring back Chinese, or to remain at Juneau with his ship."

Letter to Gov. A. P. Swineford from M. D. Ball, U. S. District Atty's Office, Sitka, AK, May 21, 1887; "pardon of Harry W\_bolt now undergoing sentence for lewd cohabitation in the jail at Sitka...."

List of "stores" received by Gov. A. P. Swineford, Dec. 31, 1887.

"Extracts from a letter from Lt. Cmdr W. H. Emory to then Hon. W. C. Whitney for the information of Gov. A. P. Swineford; Oct. 20, 1888.

Invitation (from 17 signatories in Boston, Massachusetts) to Gov. A. P. Swineford, March 19, 1888.

Letter (in Russian?) from Revd. P. A. Donkoy, Archpriest of the Russian Church at PetroPavlovsky, Kamchatka; 1888 May(?) 25

Letter to Gov. A. P. Swineford from Ordnance Office, War Department, April 18, 1888; requisition of stores

Invoice from Benicia Arsenal, dated April 18, 1888.

Letter to Gov. A. P. Swineford from the General Depoty of the Quartermaster's Department, Office of Army Clothing and Equipage, April 23, 1888; invoices and receipts.

Bills of Lading Request to Gov. A. P. Swineford by R. N. Batchelden,  
Quartermaster General of the U. S. Army.

Invoice and Receipt of Ordnance Stores; May 3, 1888.

Bill of lading endorsement request, May 3, 1888.

Receipt of stores, Oct. 12, 1888.

Substitute Bill for the organization of the Territory of Alaska, 1889.

Ordnance Inventory, April 23, 1888.

Ordnance Office correction of accounting for Springfield Rifles, Aug. 30, 1889.

Letter to Gov. A. P. Swineford from Alonzo E. Austin, Feb. 19, 1889; appointment  
to celebration of 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of George Washington's inauguration.

Letter to Gov. A. P. Swineford from John W. Noble, Secy of Interior, March 27,  
1889; announcement of resignation as Governor of Alaska.

#### **Folder 4      Correspondence and other documents**

**1890-1916**

Handwritten report of Committee on Boundary (fragile), undated.

Letter to Gov. A. P. Swineford from Democratic State Central Committee of  
Wisconsin [no signature], Oct. 28, 1892.

Invitation to Gov. A. P. Swineford & family to attend the "Ashland County  
Biographical Society" reunion at Ashland, Ohio, Sept. 28, 1897.

Letter to Gov. A. P. Swineford (in New York, NY) from Dwight Hermann,  
Commissioner, Dept. of Interior, General Land Office, Dec. 13, 1897; resignation  
from position of Inspector of Surveyors General, District Land Office.

Acknowledgement of Resignation as Inspector of Surveyors General and District  
Land Offices by Secretary of the Interior, December 21, 1897.

Letter to A. P. Swineford from Jno. T. Thompson, Captain, Ord. Dept., U.S.A.,  
April 22, 1899; relieves Swineford of "further responsibility for ... stores, which,

as stated in letter from this Office of January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1895, were found missing when you transferred to your successor, Ex-Governor L. E. Knapp, the responsibility for the ordnance and ordnance stores in the hands of the Militia of Alaska....”

Programme: Memorial Day Exercises at Juneau, Alaska, Tuesday, May 30, 1899.

Letter to A. P. Swineford from Judge James Wickersham [Dept. of Justice, United States District Court, Third District, District of Alaska], 24 March 1904; concerns the provision of a copy of Wickersham’s testimony before the House Committee on Territories, as promised.

Presentation to the Senate and House of Representatives by A. P. Swineford (from Ketchikan, Alaska), January 25, 1904; regards changing Alaska’s status from District to that of Territory.

Stock Certificate of A. P. Swineford (12,770 shares) for the Providence and Sitka Mining Co., July 30<sup>th</sup>, 190-.

Stock Certificate of A. P. Swineford (9500 shares) for the Ketchikan Gold Col, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1902.

Certification of delegates to President and Congress for enactment of legislation for Alaska,  
Nov. 22, 1905.

Certificate of A. P. Swineford as a qualified attorney and counselor of the United States District Court for the District of Alaska, May 25, 1905.

Proclamation by Gov. Miller E. Clark of Alaska, lowering the State flags on the occasion of Swineford’s death, Oct. 26, 1909.

Letter to Mrs. A. P. Swineford from B. F. Fleetwood (Waterman Hall, the Chicago Diocesan School for Girls), Nov. 16, 1909; condolences on the death of A. P. Swineford.

Last Will and Testament of Alfred P. Swineford, signed by Probate Judge H. – Folsom,  
Dec. 21, 1909.



"Notice of Appointment as Presidential Postmaster," to Minnie E. Swineford by Daniel C. Roper, First Assistant Postmaster General, May 9, 1913 [for Ketchikan].

**Box 3 Oversized Documents** (located in MS Oversize)

1. Appointment by President Grover Cleveland of A. P. Swineford as Governor Alaska; June 17, 1886. Signed also by Secretary of the Interior L. Q. C. Lamar.
2. Appointment by Secretary of the Interior Hoke Smith of A. P. Swineford to be an Inspector of Surveyors General and District Land Office; July 6, 1893.
3. Appointment by President Woodrow Wilson of Mrs. A. P. "Minnie" E. Swineford to be Postmaster of Ketchikan, Alaska; 11<sup>th</sup> of June 1913.
4. Unframed print; A Man of Kamtschatka, Traveling in Winter; J Webber del.; S. Middiman, sc., [plate #] 70.
5. Unframed print; The inside of a winter Habitation in Kamtschatka. J. Webber del., W. Sharp sculp., [plate #] 78.

**Framed Prints**

(Located with PCA 410: Framed Art Collection housed at Archives)

1. A Man of Kamtschatka & A Woman of Kamtschatka  
From Cook's voyage of 1779. J Webber, del. W. Sharp, sc.